

Driving Safely in Work Zones

Now that warm weather is here, it must be construction season. And that means it's time to refresh our safe driving in work zone skills with these tips:

- Remember that work zone means any properly posted construction, maintenance or utility work site.
- Slow down! Speed limits are reduced and fines for speeding are doubled in work zones for a good reason: to protect the workers.
- Follow instructions from flaggers and signs.
- Pay extra attention, minimize distractions and expect the unexpected.
- On January 1st Vermont law will prohibit using handheld portable electronic devices (including cell phones, PDAs and laptops) while operating a moving vehicle in a work zone, except for certain emergency communications. There is no need to wait; stop using them now.
- Turn on headlights for better visibility.
- Be courteous, and merge as instructed, as soon as it is safe to do so.
- Don't change lanes in the work zone, tailgate, or crowd the road crew. Maintain at least your 4-second following distance and give road workers as much space as possible. Try to keep up with the traffic flow.
- Expect delays and schedule extra time, or seek an alternate route.
- Be patient. Remember that they're working hard to improve the roads for all of us.

